

FW: California Valley pot farms

Debbie Arnold

Mon 7/25/2016 3:16 PM

To: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder <cr_board_clerk@co.slo.ca.us>;

Jennifer Caffee

Legislative Assistant

5th District Supervisor Debbie Arnold

San Luis Obispo County

From: anne fairchild [mailto:scienceranch@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, July 25, 2016 9:20 AM

To: Debbie Arnold <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>

Subject: Re: California Valley pot farms

Hello Debbie

Thank you for your timely and informative response.

So glad you are going to be addressing the marijuana cultivation in California Valley during your next meeting.

In addition to the trash, destruction of sensitive habitat and biological resources, creating a community culture of intimidation and fear, might you please consider a few additional budgetary and health related concerns?

First, the unrequited financial pressure these grows are costing SLO County budgets as well as the California Valley CSD due to both infrastructure destruction and additional County staff time and resources is unsustainable.

Because there are hundreds of truck-trips delivering water around daily to water the grows, the paved roads are being destroyed and the unpaved roads are being pulverized. At least road (paved and unpaved) destruction (and migratory dust impacts) was addressed and subsequently financially and best management practice mitigated while the solar farms were under construction.

In addition, because Cal Valley is remote, County staff, including Law enforcement and Code enforcement to mention a few, are spending a disproportionate time and resources addressing (not budgeted for) issues associated with the grows.

Secondly, the farmers I have spoken to, have said they purchased their supplies and infrastructure materials from outside SLO County. Hence, our County budgets are not receiving any tax revenue to offset road destruction and additional staff time and County resources.

Additionally, when the crop is harvested, those funds will migrate out of the County as well.

Item No. 15

Meeting Date: July 26, 2016

Presented by: Anne Fairchild

Rec'd prior to meeting & posted to web on: July 25, 2016

07/25/2016

Page 1 of 3

Finally, being surrounded by grows and because the dirt roads are being pulverized by the water trucks delivering water to the grows, there is a maginutidual increase in both migratory dust and dust generated by passing water trucks. With Valley Fever prevalent, this is an instant health concern.

Hence, the marijuana cultivations are a unreciprocated drain on the Counties' already strained economic resources and also pose an immediate Valley Fever health threat. Can you please consider addressing these issues in an effort to mitigate and provide relief for the permanently and vested rate-paying community members?

Thank you for your time and efforts.
Anne

On Tue, Jul 12, 2016 at 5:44 PM, Debbie Arnold <darnold@co.slo.ca.us> wrote:

Thank you for taking the time to express your concerns in regards to the increase in marijuana cultivation we are seeing in California Valley.

I recently visited California Valley with the Sheriff's Narcotics Unit. Needless to say, this is a very serious matter. With the anticipation of the legalization of recreational marijuana initiative passing in November, the Board of Supervisors will be discussing this issue on July 26th. We hope you will remain engaged in this matter and I appreciate you sharing your concerns with all of the Supervisors.

Sincerely,

Debbie Arnold
Supervisor, 5th District
San Luis Obispo County

From: anne fairchild [mailto:scienceranch@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2016 10:56 AM
To: BOS_District 5_Web Contact <district5@co.slo.ca.us>
Subject: California Valley pot farms

Hello Debbie Arnold

Hoping you are well and thank for your service.

I am writing you to encourage you to out-right ban or highly regulate pot growing practices in SLO County's District 5 as is the practice with neighboring counties and many other counties in the state.

I have lived in Cal Val for near 20 years for it's tranquility, sense of community and beauty.

With all of the pot farmers, the sense of community has gone from a culture of cooperation and transparency to a culture of intimidation, secrecy, fear and other negative and disruptive qualities.

Currently, I am constantly picky up plastic bags, and related windblown trash on a daily basis. In addition, I have been followed out (intimidation) of the Valley on three separate occasions and once had friends riding motorcycles confronted, all a matter of police record.

While individually, the farmers I have met are nice and hard working people, it is the ancillary practices associated with their activities including: trash, blading of the soils including recognized sensitive habitats, herbicide and pesticide use amongst federally and state listed plants and animal species and the criminal element draw to the area to steal the harvest.

While most of the aforementioned practices with proper oversight could likely be mitigated, being surrounded by 3 pot farms, I am most concerned for my personal safety and the potential for violence before or during the harvest season either from the farmers or from those looking to steal the crop.

Additionally, while purely speculative, I have it on good authority, the criminal element is no doubt casing the area including my residence and likely watching my activities as well as those of the farmers. Therefore, the casers have an idea of my routines and comings and goings, leaving me vulnerable to robbery or other nefarious activities.

Thank you in advance for your time and efforts to address restoring our biological resources, sense of community and sense of personal security.

Anne Fairchild

California Valley, CA 93453